(c) There is no specific case of malfunctioning of any schools reported to their Board.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Promotion in Central Hindi Directorate

5204. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers belonging to SC are being denied the benefits of due promotion to the post of Assistant Director under the Internal Promotion Scheme for a considerable period in Central Hindi Directorate;

(b) if so, the justification for such discrimination and the details of number of officers affected as a result thereof; and

(c) by when such officers would be given their due promotion and reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir. At present, out of four alive posts in the grade of Assistant Director in the Central Hindi Directorate (CHD), two posts are occupied by SC category officers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mapping of Living Resources

5205. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Ocean Development was created *inter alia* to map living resources, prepare an inventory of commercially exploitable fauna and map and assess the availability of mineral resources from the deep sea;

(b) if so, the achievement made so far in these areas: and

(c) the plans set out for 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Some of the achievements so far:

Assessment of Demersal fishery resources has been carried in the 200 to 600m depth area in the Indian EEZ. The catch per unit efforts (CPUE) ranges from 14 to 143 kg/hr.

The commercially important fauna available are Shrimp, Ribbon fish, Lizzard fish. Thread fin bream. Bull's eye and Indian ruff.

The major achievements in respect of mapping and assessment of polymetallic nodules from the allocated area are as follows :

India was awarded the status of Pioneer Investor and was allocated an Area of 1.50,000 square kilometer in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).

Detailed multibeam bathymetry mapping, survey and sampling area in CIOB has been carried out and resources potential estimated.

Based on survey, India retained 75,000 square kilometer of area and completed the entire obligation as a Pioneer Investor.

(c) During the year 2003-04, efforts will be continued to ascertain the results obtained earlier for preparation of maps.

Under polymetallic nodule programme, it is proposed to carry out close grid surveys of the retained Area to undertake detailed studies to update the database and the estimates of resources for identification of first generation mine site.

Contract to Private Firm for Maintenance of Railway Stations

5206. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private firm would keep Old Delhi Railway Station and footover bridges clean as appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider awarding similar contracts for the maintenance and upkeep of prominent and crowded railway station in different parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (d) Though contract for mechanized cleaning and upkeep of platforms and other passenger usage areas has been awarded in respect of Old Delhi Railway Station, the work has not yet started. The Zonal Railways have been empowered to undertake such activities at other important stations within their jurisdiction.

Renewal of Contract of M/s. A. H. Wheeler & CO.

5207. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 185 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2000 and state :